



ENGLISH ACCESS MICROSCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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Building a Foundation

Many bright but economically disadvantaged students in foreign countries encounter a common hurdle in their quest for higher education and better jobs: the lack of English language skills. The English Access Microscholarship Program gives them the skills they need to fulfill their aspirations, and at the same time gain an appreciation for American culture and values.

The “Access” program, averaging \$1,000 per student for two years of study, provides an American-style classroom experience using U.S. materials with an emphasis on active learning. Many English Access Microscholarship programs include leadership training and preparation for jobs.

A Path to Mutual Understanding

English Access Microscholarships give students the skills to compete for and participate in exchanges in the U.S. “Access” alumni have been selected for participation in State Department-sponsored high school exchanges and undergraduate student leader institutes in the U.S.

Learning English provides students with a new window on America that can enhance trust and mutual understanding. In the photos above First Lady Laura Bush (left) and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (right) meet with “Access” participants.

The English Access Microscholarship Program provides a foundation of English language skills to talented 14-to 18-year-olds from disadvantaged sectors through after-school classes and intensive summer learning activities. The program gives participants English skills that lead to better jobs and educational prospects. Participants also gain the ability to compete for and participate in future exchanges and study in the U.S. Since its inception in 2004, 32,000 students in 50 countries have participated in the “Access” program.

“**T**he English Access [Microscholarship] Program has provided me a remarkable opportunity to study the most important language which will help me in the university study, as well as later when I apply for a job. I also have learned how to deal with many types of people.”

*“Access” Participant
Yemen*

“**T**hrough this program, I’ve acquired the spirit for giving and sharing, and that is something I’m planning to do for the rest of my life.”

*“Access” Participant
Lebanon*

Providing Opportunities

The acquisition of English language skills in “Access” programs encourages young people to aspire to once unattainable goals and succeed in reaching them. For example:

Four Lebanese “Access” alumni were selected to participate in the State Department’s Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES), which brings high school students to the U.S.

Five “Access” alumni from Algeria were selected to participate in a State Department-sponsored Student Leaders Study of the U.S. Institute.

“Access” graduates have earned scholarships from the American University in Beirut.

A Moroccan “Access” graduate who obtained a job due to his participation in the “Access” program remarked: “Because of the “Access” program I’ve got a job [in a call center],...and I don’t think without this opportunity I would have a job now.”

Sultan, the son of a Yemeni trash collector, wanted to go to college, but did not speak English. After receiving an “Access” microscholarship and completing the course, he won a scholarship to study Information Technology in a Canadian undergraduate program.

Another Yemeni “Access” graduate won the English Speaking Union’s 2007 public speaking competition.

